



FOUNDRY
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER



Preschool Partnership Tier 2 Collaboration: Lessons Learned

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WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
WHERE CHILDREN PREPARE FOR SUCCESS

Warren County is home to . . .

- Two public school districts
 - Bowling Green Independent Schools
 - Warren County Public Schools
- Two Head Start grantees
 - Community Action Head Start (3 centers)
 - Western Kentucky University (2 centers)
- 39 Regulated Child Care Programs (serving children younger than 5 years of age)
- 10+ Unregulated Child Care Programs (Parents' Day Out, Private Preschool, etc.)

Warren County Public Schools

- Warren County Public Schools . . .
 - 15,000+ students
 - 50+ spoken languages
 - 35 nationalities
 - 9,000+ eligible for free lunch
 - 22 schools, 14 of which are elementary schools
- Warren County Kindergarten . . .
 - 1,170+ students
 - 170+ with IEPs
 - 250+ English Language Learners
- Warren County Preschool . . .
 - 600+ students
 - 290+ with IEPs
 - 140+ English Language Learners

WCPS's Greatest Challenges

Refugee Resettlement

- Warren County is home to a refugee resettlement organization. Refugees must be housed within 15 miles of Refugee Resettlement Office. Refugees have little if any exposure to formal education in American schools. Over 50 languages are spoken by 35+ ethnic groups in Warren County.

Rural Poverty

- Warren County boasts a diverse population of 113,500+ residents. While the county seat, Bowling Green, is a diverse urban community, it is surrounded by smaller rural communities comprised of generations of families. Data indicates residents in these areas often have lower income levels and lower high school graduation rates.

The Foundry Christian Community Center

Supported by the Bowling Green District of United Methodist Churches, the vision of The Foundry is to raise up leaders for our community from the children of the West End. Our desire is to serve and support the residents of this community in ways that bring about life, love, and hope.



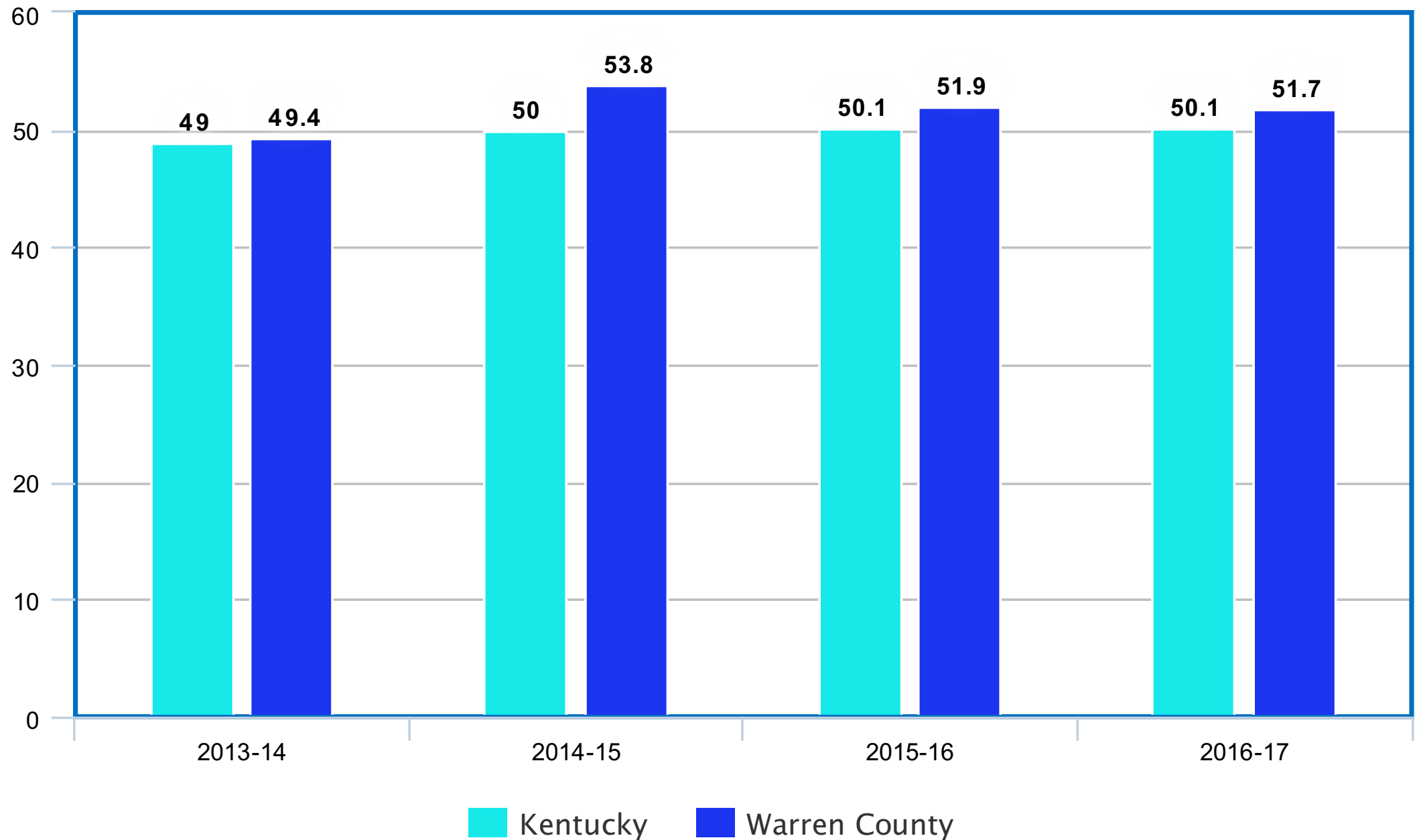
The Foundry's Greatest Challenges

Our goal is simple—to give our kids the individualized support they need to get to and through college and become productive, self-sustaining adults. Realizing this goal is difficult and complex, particularly since we are working with youth, many of them with tough challenges.

Our vision is to achieve unprecedented success, by helping children and families disrupt the cycle of generational poverty thru innovative and effective programs that embrace the following components:

- Unprecedented Scale
- Holistic Approach
- A Pipeline to Success
- Starting Early
- College Plans
- Driven by Data
- Rebuilding Community
- Building Character
- Whatever it Takes

Kindergarten Readiness In Warren County



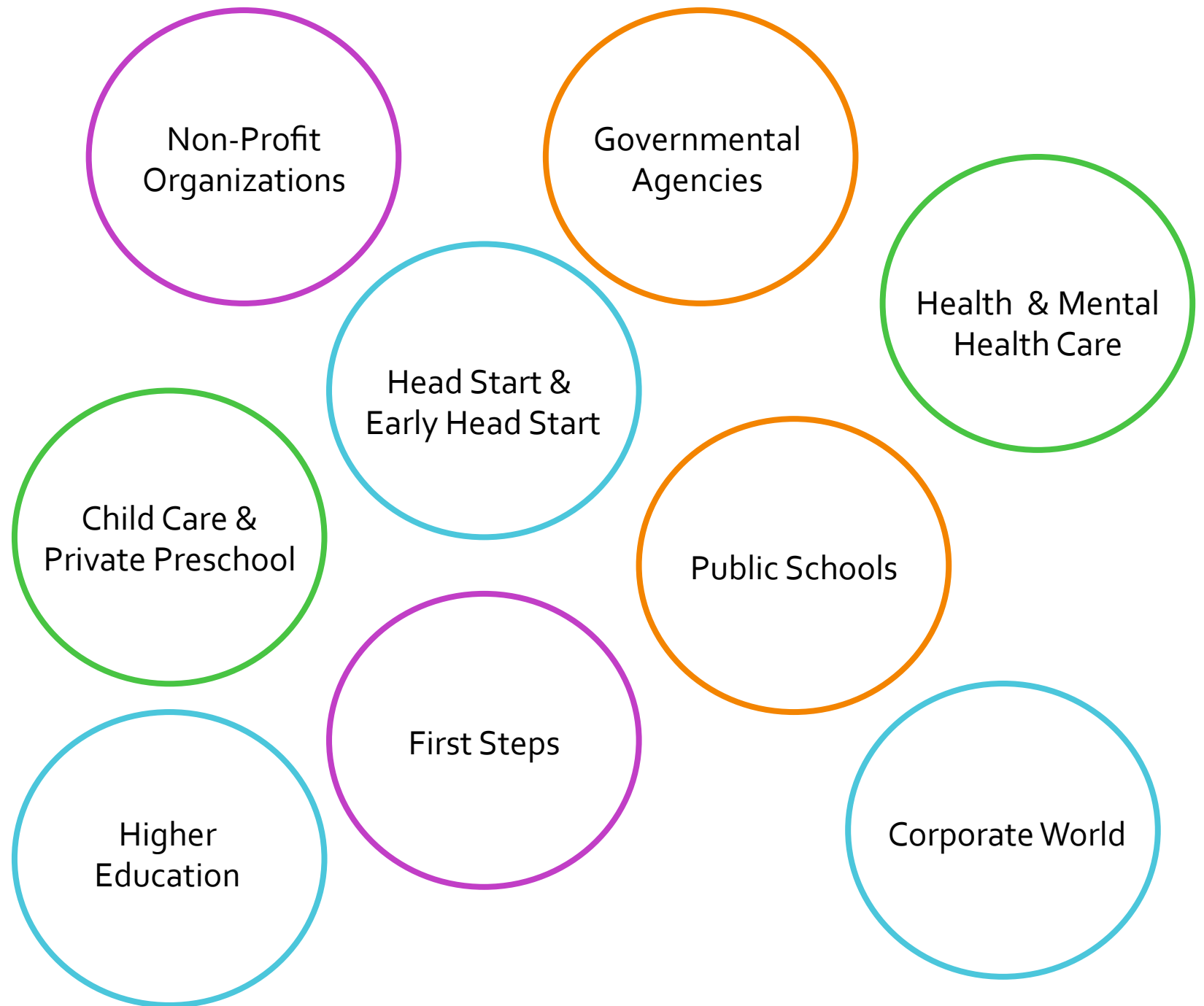
Areas of Greatest Concern

Free & Reduced Lunch
40.4% Ready

English Language Learners
32.0% Ready

Students with Disabilities
31.1% Ready

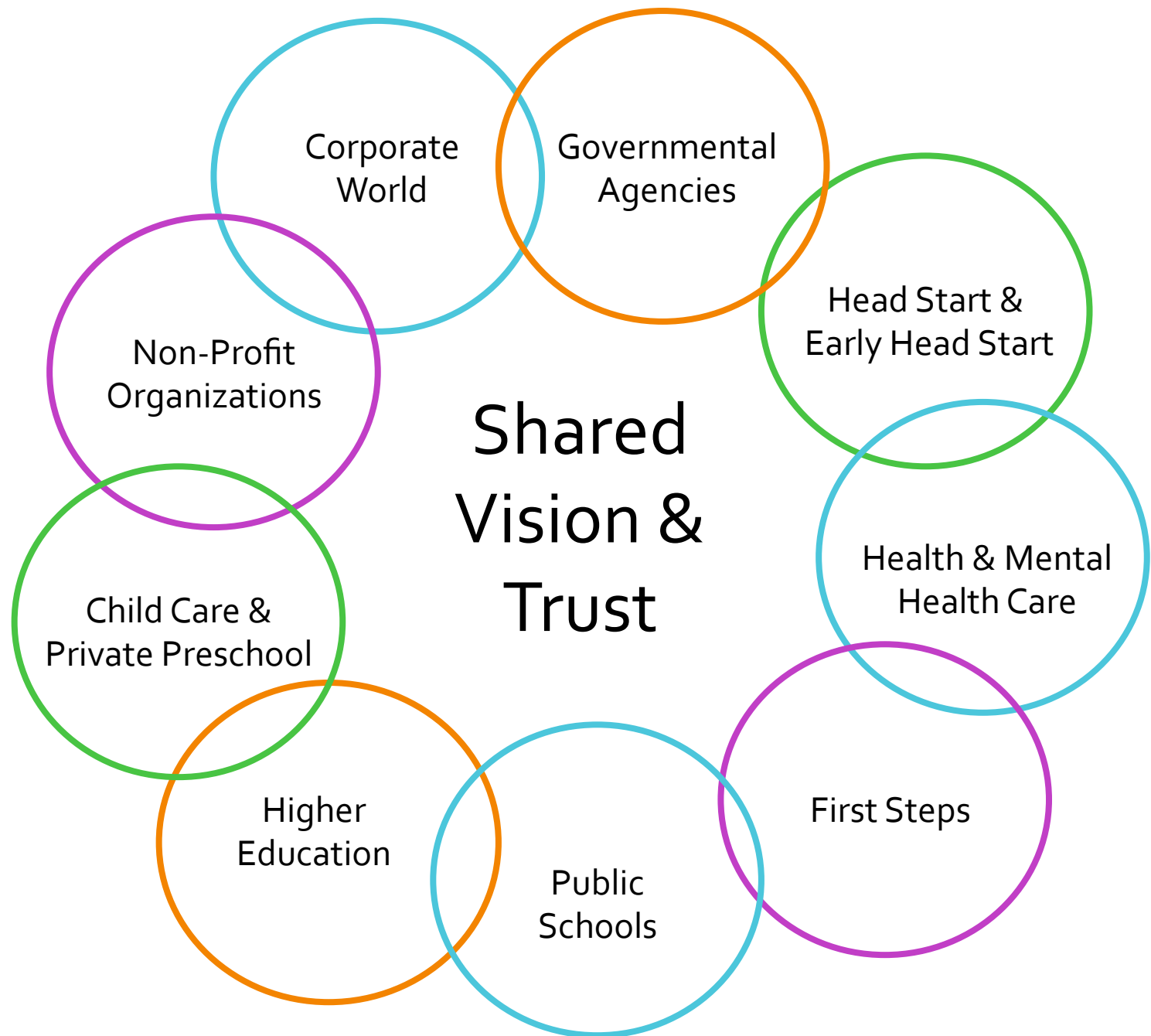
Disconnected Resources



Best Practices

- Shared Vision
- Community Collaboration
- Data Driven Transformation

Strengths-Based Model



Preschool Partnership Tier 2 Implementation Grant

“... designed to incentivize cooperative public/private partnerships between public school districts and child care providers to develop full-day, high-quality programs for at-risk children. The incentive grant program represents **an opportunity for school districts and child care providers to improve the quality of services in their communities.**”



Tools for Successful Collaboration

- Active listening
- Respect for what each player brings to the table
- Shared vision in which all players contribute to and benefit from the cause
- Active commitment
- Shared leadership
- Constant reflection as a tool for growth
- Role release

Using Collaborative Tools for Growth

Reflect on effectiveness of previously implemented strategies



Critically review kindergarten readiness data for children in this area



Identify gaps in performance and services



Consider strategies and capitalize on each agencies strengths



Create a collective ACTION plan (objectives, strategies, evaluation)



The beginning
of great things
for children &
communities!



Their first bus ride to The Foundry! What a great day!

Initial Priorities

- Regulatory Compliance (Child Care Licensing, KY Preschool Regulations, KY Transportation Regulations, IDEA, USDA , Health Department)
- Supervision (Personnel, Site)
- Fiscal Management (Grant, Facility, Transportation, Meals, WCPS Personnel, Foundry Personnel, Equipment & Materials)

Staffing

Warren County Public Schools

- IECE credentialed teacher, instructional assistant and sub teacher who meet WCPS hiring criteria
- Meets KY child care licensing hiring criteria and training requirements
- Fulfills PD obligation for KY child care licensing, WCPS Personnel Policies and KY Preschool Regulations

The Foundry

- Utilizes staff currently in place
- Extends roles (site supervision, child record maintenance, parent involvement)
- Participates in PD specific to increasing All STARS ratings and raising child outcomes
- Provides more intentionally planned parent involvement opportunities

Professional Learning: Raising Quality in Early Learning Settings

Training Plan

- KY Strengthening Families
- Creative Curriculum
- Handwriting Without Tears
- ECERS-R
- Screening
- On-Going Assessment
- Licensing Orientation

Shared Resources

- Credentialed Trainers
- Training Facilities
- Material Collection/Preparation
- Professional Learning Communities
- Registration
- TRIS Data Entry

Recruitment & Engagement of Families and Children

- Children previously identified eligible for state funded preschool, residing within “the zone.”
- Families willing to complete CCAP eligibility determination process
- Families willing to complete USDA form
- Families agreeing to complete a Family Needs Assessment
- Families agreeing to ensure regular attendance, 4 full-days/week (transportation provided)
- Continued connections with children’s home school (parent events, transition events, etc.)

Curriculum & Assessment

- **Curriculum**
 - Creative Curriculum for Preschool (Foundry & WCPS)
 - Handwriting Without Tears (Foundry & WCPS)
 - Second Step Antiviolence Curriculum (WCPS)
- **Child Assessment**
 - Brigance Early Child Childhood Screen (upon entry for child planning purposes and exit for program data collection purposes) (Foundry & WCPS)
 - Teaching Strategies Gold On-Line (On-Going) Assessment (WCPS)
 - Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (pre and post) ((WCPS)
- **Program Assessment**
 - Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale – Revised (Foundry & WCPS)
 - Family Satisfaction Surveys (WCPS)

Daily Operations

- **Supervision**
 - Foundry Director on site; manages day-to-day operations including personnel, regulatory compliance, classroom management, meals, maintenance, families
 - WCPS Liaison makes regular site visits; assists with personnel and regulatory compliance
- **Enrollment**
 - Children enroll through WCPS home school and duplicate paperwork is transferred to Foundry
- **Meals**
 - Foundry employees cook and completes USDA reports
- **Transportation**
 - WCPS provides transportation, including bus monitor, to and from school on already established bus routes
- **Finance**
 - WCPS serves as Fiscal Agent; Foundry invoices for reimbursable services as defined in the grant application

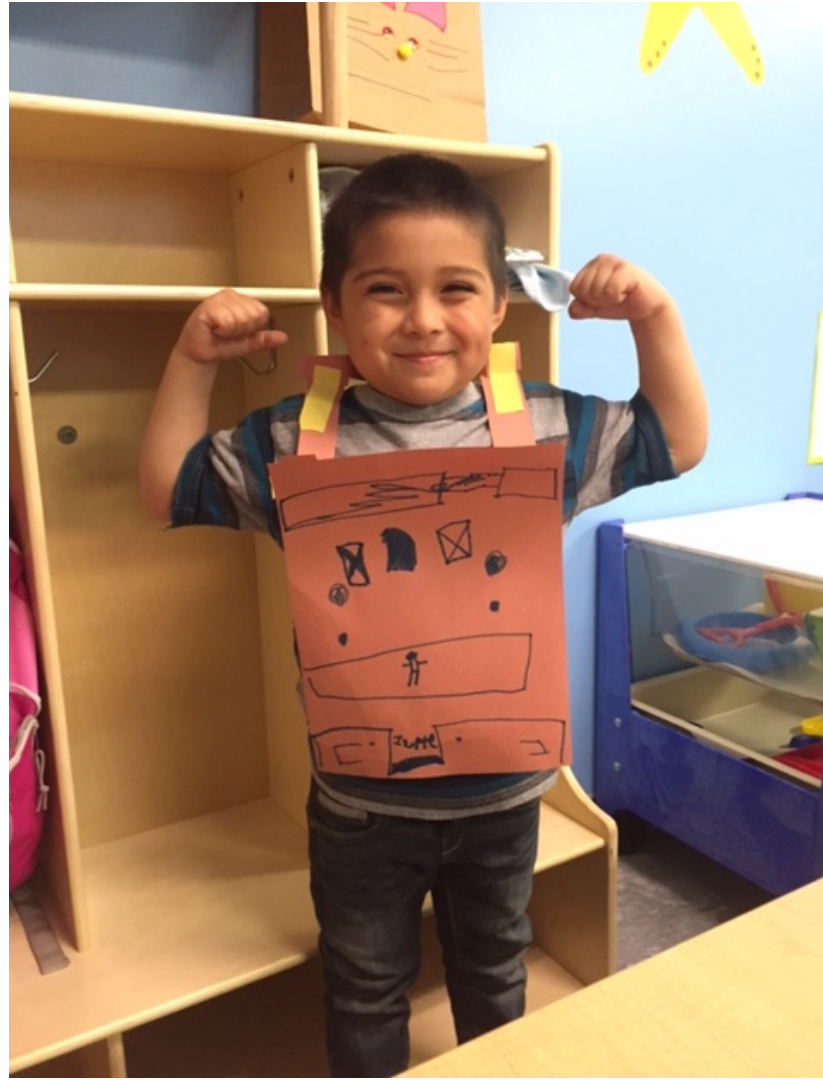
Lessons Learned

- The greater number of partners, the greater number of regulations and time constraints. **Prior planning is essential.**
- Relying what has always worked doesn't always work. **Think outside the box.**
- When the community recognizes good things are happening, they become eager supporters. **Appropriately use social media to entice community support.**
- At risk is not solely defined by disability or income. Children who live a life filled with trauma suffer from the "chaos gap." **Identify the greatest need that is impairing a child's access to learning and make a plan.**

More Lessons Learned

- **Assessment is not a product, it is a process.** Thoughtfully and regularly review child, family and program data to inform instruction and program improvement.
- **One size does not fit all.** Thoroughly sift through assessment data to identify the greatest need and make a plan to serve that need.
- **ELL is not just about differences in language.** Get to know families and their CULTURE. Recognize changes that need to be made that promote acceptance and appreciation of all children and families. Preserving the climate of each community while reaching in to engage families and transform the futures for the very youngest members of those communities is key to moving forward as partners.

Collaboration--
These children
are doing much
more than
surviving--they
are thriving!



What we didn't anticipate . . .

- **The message that those children served by The Foundry were not appropriately served in their first setting.** We have reduced the adult:child ratio AND doubled time at school for a group of children with the greatest risk for school failure.
- **We were not all speaking the same language when we talked finance, personnel and attendance.** Over time, we have come to identify who the key players are for each entity and system.
- **The importance of implementing an evidence based curriculum for all children.** Child care and state funded preschool teachers eagerly embraced the Creative Curriculum and children demonstrated positive outcomes because of this implementation.

We plan to . . .

- Schedule & implement regular administrative meetings between Foundry and WCPS staff.
- Facilitate monthly professional learning communities, both at the classroom and at the center level.
- Develop a professional learning plan based on needs addressed through observation and teacher request.
- Provide a set schedule for the WCPS liaison to be on-site each week.
- Consider the needs of children, families and staff as a whole rather than “Foundry kids/staff” and “WCPS kids/staff.”
- Continue to listen to “the community” and think outside the box!

Our
Future!



Questions & Conversation

Thank you! Best wishes as you
develop great partnerships for
children!

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